

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10704 071449Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 PC-01 IO-10 /074 W

----- 116504

P R 071400Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 491

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10704

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: THE DECLINE OF PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: THE MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TERMINATING TOMORROW RUBBER-STAMPED A RASH OF GOI INITIATED LAWS PRIMARILY AIMED AT EXTRICATING MRS GANDHI FROM HER LEGAL DIFFICULTIES. A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUGUST 18 WILL RUBBER-STAMP NEW POWERS FOR HER, POSSIBLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LOK SABHA ADJOURNS TODAY (AUGUST 7) AMID RISING SPECULATION THAT MRS GANDHI WILL SOON SPRING A CHANGE OVER TO A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM. THE RAJYA SABHA WILL RECESS TOMORROW. CONGRESS MPS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RETURN TO DELHI BY AUGUST 18 FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT THAT WILL PROBABLY RUBBER-STAMP THE PREDICTED CONSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS.

2. SEVERAL RECENT STATEMENTS BY MRS GANDHI WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS REINFORCE SPECULATION THAT SUCH BASIC CHANGES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10704 071449Z

ARE IMMINENT. IN HER SATURDAY REVIEW INTERVIEW

SHE QUESTIONED THE APPLICABILITY OF THE "ANGLO-SAXON JURIDICAL SYSTEM" TO INDIA. DURING HER JULY 28 INTERVIEW WITH YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS, SHE POINTEDLY REMARKED THAT A COALITION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES "CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO COME TO POWER" AT THE "NATIONAL LEVEL." LAW MINISTER GOKHALE WAS EVEN MORE DIRECT IN AN AUGUST 6 STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT. HE CALLED FOR A SECOND LOOK AT THE "WHOLE PROCESS OF THE CONSTITUTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE." IN DEFENDING GOI AMENDMENTS IN PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 7, GOKHALE STATED THAT THE COUNTRY COULD NOT BE IMPRISONED BY A "DOCUMENT" SINCE IT WOULD PREVENT IT FROM MAKING PROGRESS. HE SAID THAT "THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION WAS FRAMED YEARS BACK WHEN THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT FORCES EXISTING AT THE TIME. THE URGENCY AT THAT TIME WAS TO FREE THE COUNTRY FROM THE SHACKLES OF IMPERIALISM. SO LONG IT WENT ON, IT WAS ALRIGHT. BUT CONDITIONS DID NOT REMAIN STATIC. THE CONSTITUTION IS AFTER ALL ONLY AN INSTRUMENT, A MEANS TO AN END AND IT IS NOT NOT AN END IN ITSELF. WE HAVE TO START THE EXERCISE OF LOOKING AT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND FORMULATE A NEW FRAMEWORK, AGAIN CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES."

3. THE JULY 21-AUGUST 8 SITTING OF PARLIAMENT WAS UNIQUE. MPS IN BOTH HOUSES WERE SILENT SPECTATORS TO THE GOI THEATRE. THE PRESS WAS PRESENT BUT REPORTED ONLY STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS. THE OPPOSITION MARCHED OUT IN PROTEST. FROM MINUTE TO MINUTE CONGRESS MPS WERE UNAWARE OF WHAT LEGISLATION THE GOI WOULD PLACE BEFORE THEM NEXT. THE GOVERNMENT'S PIECEMEAL INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, AMENDMENTS AND SECOND-THOUGHT AMENDMENTS TO AMENDMENTS, LAST MINUTE DECISIONS TO EXTEND PARLIAMENT -- AND THEN TO RECONVENE IT THE WEEK HENCE -- AND CONSTANT FLIP-FLOPS BY THE CENSORS -- ILLUSTRATED GREAT GOI CONFUSION AND LACK OF ANY COORDINATED DIRECTION.

4. THE GOI'S NEXT ACT WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENE ON AUGUST 18 WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW A SIMILAR PATTERN, THOUGH FOCUSING ON STRENGTHENING MRS GANDHI'S POWERS RATHER THAN EXONERATING HER FROM THE COURTS. AS ONE MUSLIM LEAGUE MP PRESENT AT THE SESSION PRIVATELY PUT IT: "PARLIAMENT IS NOW NOTHING."  
SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NEWDE10704  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750272-1319  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750873/aaaacmvf.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE DECLINE OF PARLIAMENT SUMMARY: THE MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TERMINATING  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006